

MARVEL
COMICS



X-MEN

AUG '96 34

ONSLAUGHT
PHASE 1

ONSLAUGHT
AND BEYOND!
UPDATE INSIDE!

HULK
SMASH!

DIRECT EDITION
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CASABLANCA,
MOROCCO.

NEARLY A MILE BENEATH
THE DESERT FLOOR, THE
SOUND OF METAL WORKING
STONE ECHOES IN NEAR
DARKNESS...

...ALMOST DROWNING OUT
A VOICE AS EMPTY AS THE
CAVERNOUS SEPULCHRE.

FOR
MILLENNIA
HAS OZYMANDIAS
BEEN IMPRISONED,
DOOMED TO LIVE
THIS ENDLESS
LIFE...

... COMPELLED
BY A DARK FORCE
TO RECORD THE
EVENTS OF THIS
WORLD...

... AND TO
DECIPHER HOW
THEY WILL LEAD
TO AN INEVITABLE
TOMORROW WHERE
ONLY THE
STRONGEST
SURVIVE.

LONG
WAS THIS
ONE'S BIRTH
AWAITED...

... AND
LONG HAS
HE BEEN
WATCHED.

FOR WITH
EACH STEP, HE WHO
IS CALLED THE CHOSEN
ONE DRAWS EVER
CLOSER TO HIS
DESTINY...

... TO FACE
THE CAPTOR OF
OZYMANDIAS...
THE ETERNAL ONE --

APOCALYPSE!

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THAT TIME --
WHEN THE WORLD
STANDS AT THE END
OF THE AGE OF
WONDERS --

-- IS
NEARLY AT
HAND.

BUT
BEFORE THE MAN
CALLED CABLE CAN
MEET HIS ULTIMATE
FATE...

...HE
MUST SURVIVE
PERHAPS THE
GREATEST TEST
OF HIS
STRENGTH.





THE ALL
BUT OMNIPOTENT
BEING KNOWN AS
ENLAUGHT FEARS
CABLE'S ENORMOUS
PSIONIC
POWER...

...AND SO
HAS POSSESSED
THE BEING WITH
THE SUPREME
PHYSICAL
POWER.

A FORCE
OF DESTRUCTION
UNLEASHED BY THE
POWER OF THE
ATOM...

... AND
WHOSE
FRACTURED
PSYCHE MAKES HIM
VIRTUALLY IMPEVIOUS
TO EVEN CABLE'S
TELEPATHY.

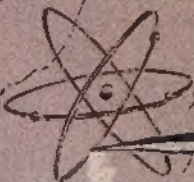
A
SHADOW
HAS FALLEN
OVER ALL
HUMANITY.

FOR AT
THIS VERY
MOMENT...

...WHATEVER
HOPE THIS
PLANET
HAD...

...LIKE A
CANDLE IN A
GALE FORCE
WIND...

... IT IS SOON TO BE
EXTINGUISHED.





AND EVEN AS
THE ANCIENT
OZYMANDIAS
CHISELS...

... THE HORRIBLE
FATE HE DEPICTS
UNFURLS...



BALTIMORE,
MARYLAND.

NO.

HE IS NATHAN
DAYSRING
SUMMERS.

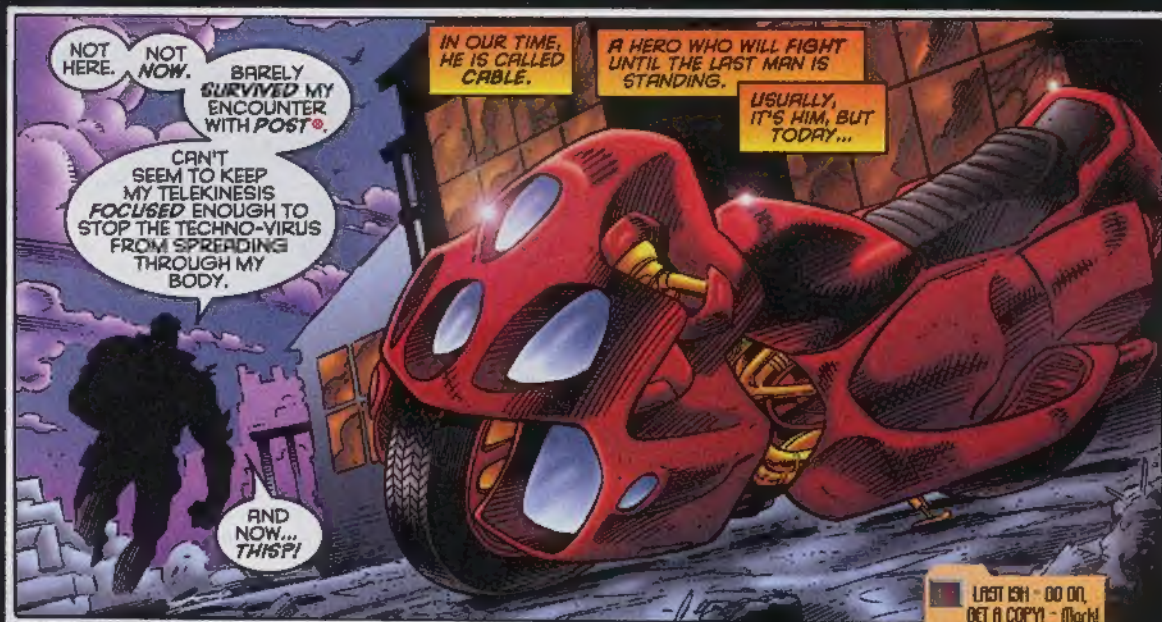
NAMED "DAYSRING"
BECAUSE IN THE BLEAK
FUTURE FROM WHICH
HE CAME --

-- HE WAS
THOUGHT
TO BE A
SIGN OF
NEW HOPE.



BUT THOSE TIMES
NEVER SEEMED
THIS BLEAK...

... NOR THE
SEARCH FOR
HOPE SO
FUTILE.



NOT
HERE.

NOT
NOW.

BARELY
SURVIVED MY
ENCOUNTER
WITH POST®.

CAN'T
SEEM TO KEEP
MY TELEKINESIS
FOCUSED ENOUGH TO
STOP THE TECHNO-VIRUS
FROM SPREADING
THROUGH MY
BODY.

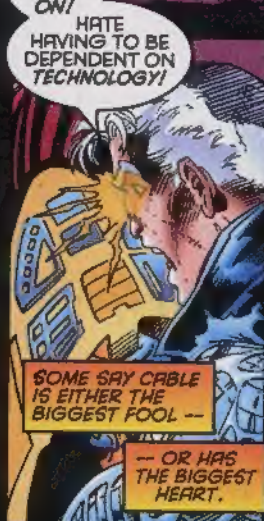
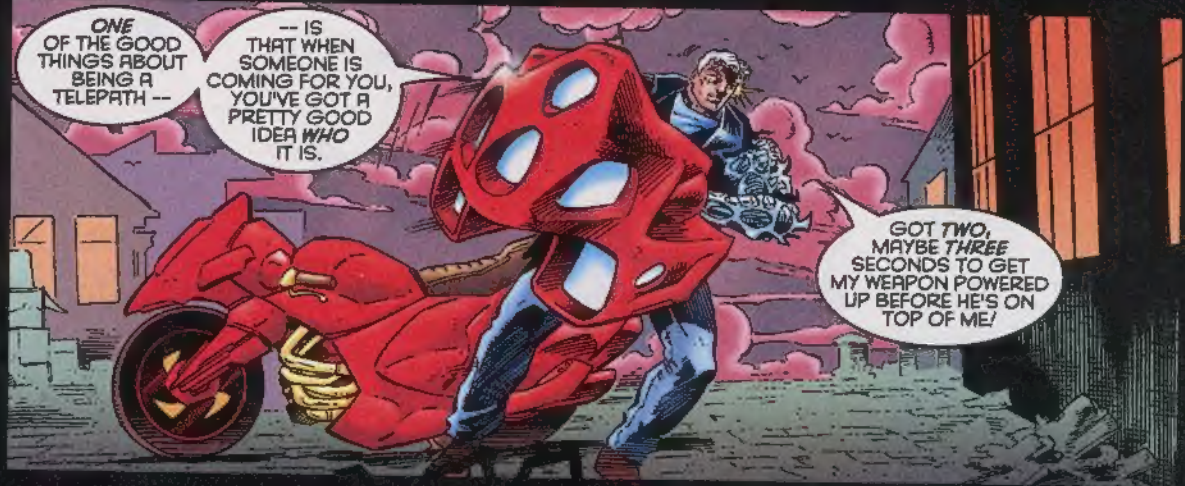
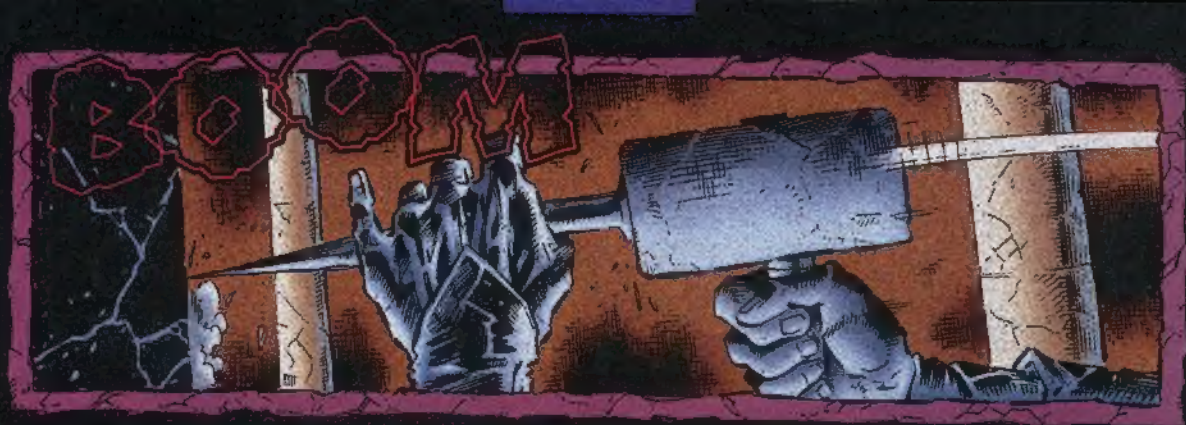
AND
NOW...
THIS!

IN OUR TIME,
HE IS CALLED
CABLE.

A HERO WHO WILL FIGHT
UNTIL THE LAST MAN IS
STANDING.

USUALLY,
IT'S HIM, BUT
TODAY...

LAST ISH - DO ON,
GET A COPY! - Mark!





PUNY
MAN WITH
PUNY GUN
CANNOT STOP
HULK!

HULK IS
THE STRONGEST
ONE THERE
IS!

Dr. ROBERT BRUCE
BANNER WAS CAUGHT IN
THE HEART OF A GAMMA
BOMB EXPLOSION --

-- AND ITS RADIATION
TURNED HIM INTO THE
RAMPAGING ENGINE OF
DESTRUCTION KNOWN AS
THE INCREDIBLE
HULK!

ONSLAUGHT
SENT POST
AFTER ME.

COULD
HE NOW
CONTROL THE
HULK?

NEVER BEFORE
HAVE THE X-MEN
OR I FACED A FOE SO
CALCULATING...

... WHO
KNOWS OUR
STRENGTHS AND
WEAKNESSES SO
INTIMATELY.

BISHOP
HAS ALWAYS
SPOKEN OF A
TRAITOR FROM
WITHIN.

IF WHAT
I SUSPECT
IS TRUE -- IF
THAT TRAITOR IS
WHO I THINK
IT IS --

-- THEN
WE'RE ALL IN
A WORLD OF
TROUBLE!

STAN LEE
PRESENTS:

LOOSE CANNONS

JEPH LOEB IAN CHURCHILL SCOTT HANNA
Writer Penciler Inker

RICHARD STARKINGS and COMICRAFT: Letters
MIKE THOMAS: Colors MALIBU: Enhancement
MARK POWERS: Editor BOB HARRAS: Editor in Chief



LOOK, HULK, I DON'T WANT TO HURT YOU...

HAVE TO TAKE A CHANCE... LOWER MY GUN SO AS NOT TO ANTAGONIZE HIM.

AND I HAVE NO INTENTION OF HURTING YOU EITHER, CABLE.

WHILE WE'VE NEVER MET, I DON'T SEE WHY WE CAN'T BE REASONABLE.

I WAS MERELY JOKING WITH THAT "HULK SMASH" SPEECH.

IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE I SPOKE LIKE THAT.



JOKING...? THEN... WHY ARE YOU HERE?

TO HELP. NOW PUT DOWN THE GUN.



PUT. DOWN. THE. GUN.

YOUR MIND IS... TELEPATHICALLY BLOCKED FROM ME.

ONLY ONE REASON FOR THAT.

A BAD REASON.





I SAID
I CAME TO
HELP.

I JUST
DIDN'T SAY
WHO.

WAM
M



BY THE
WAY...

ONSLAUGHT
SENDS HIS
REGARDS.





REWRITING
THE BOOK
ON PAIN.



I DON'T
KNOW HOW MUCH
PSIONIC ENERGY
I CAN SPARE TO
FIGHT THE
HULK--

-- AND
STILL KEEP
MYSELF
TOGETHER!

PUSH
PAST THE
HURT,
NATHAN.

DEAL
WITH THE
SITUATION AS
IT PRESENTS
ITSELF!



BLAQUESMITH
ONCE TOLD ME
THAT I HAVE POWER
I'VE NEVER
TAPPED.

HE WAS
AFRAID THAT
I WOULD
BECOME...
UNSTABLE...



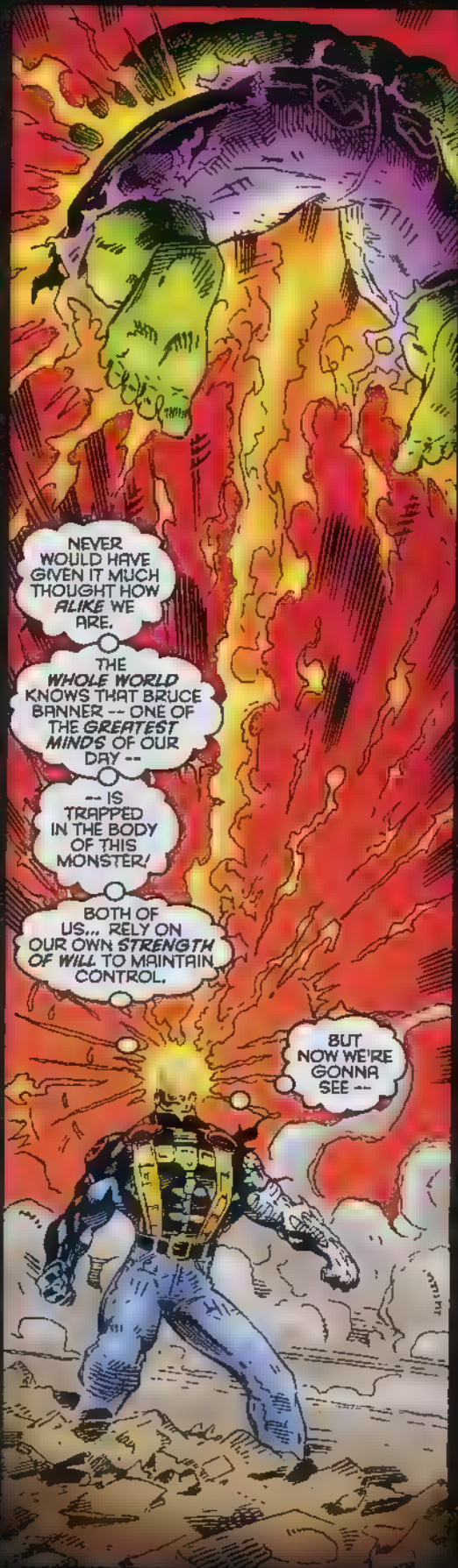
... AN
UNCONTROLLABLE
FORCE OF
NATURE.

LIKE THE
HULK HIM-
SELF!

WHAT--
FROZEN
IN MID-
AIR?!

IT'S
CALLED
TELEKINESIS,
UGLY.

MAYBE
YOUR MASTER
SHOULD'VE
CLUED YOU
IN...!



NEVER
WOULD HAVE
GIVEN IT MUCH
THOUGHT HOW
ALIKE WE
ARE.

THE
WHOLE WORLD
KNOWS THAT BRUCE
BANNER -- ONE OF
THE GREATEST
MINDS OF OUR
DAY --

-- IS
TRAPPED
IN THE BODY
OF THIS
MONSTER!

BOTH OF
US... RELY ON
OUR OWN STRENGTH
OF WILL TO MAINTAIN
CONTROL.

BUT
NOW WE'RE
GONNA
SEE --

"-- WHOSE
WILL IS
STRONGER!"



BOOM!

HE'S
DOWN... FOR
THE MOMENT, ONE
CHANCE, ONE CHANCE
TO FORCE THE HULK
TO CALM DOWN AND
REVERT BACK
TO BANNER.

BANNER!
I'M GOING TO TRY
AND PSI-LINK WITH
YOU!

GET
YOU TO SEE
THAT YOU'RE
BEING
USED.

HIS
HEAD... FILLED
WITH TORTURED
IMAGES...

FEARS...
NIGHT-
MARES...

HELP ME,
BANNER, I NEED YOU
TO FIGHT BACK --
FREE YOUR
MIND!

DON'T
BE A
VICTIM!

DID YOU SAY VICTIM...?

GRAY...?

I AIN'T NO VICTIM!

K
R
A
K

NICE TRY, BUT I'VE GOT A JOB TO DO.

IT'S NOT PERSONAL.

IT'S BUSINESS.

AND I AIN'T NEVER BACKED OUT ON A JOB BEFORE.

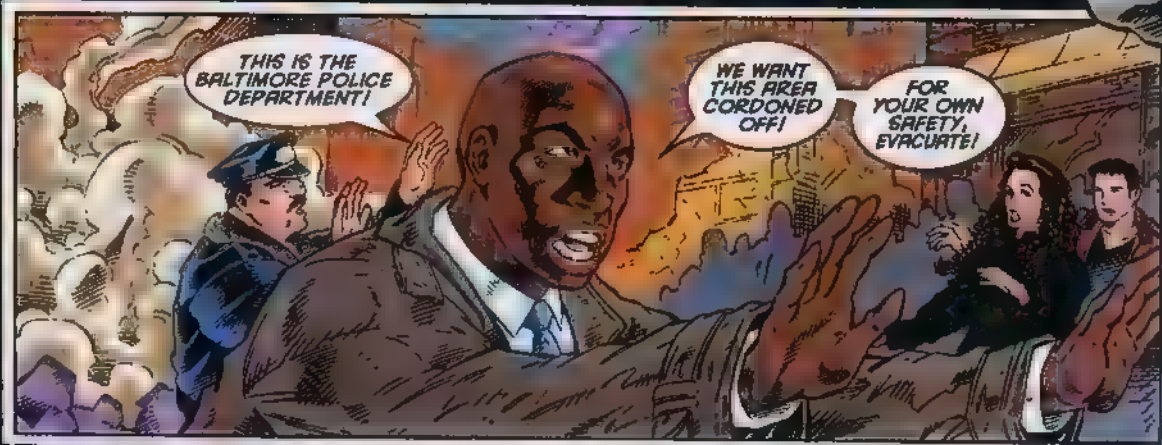
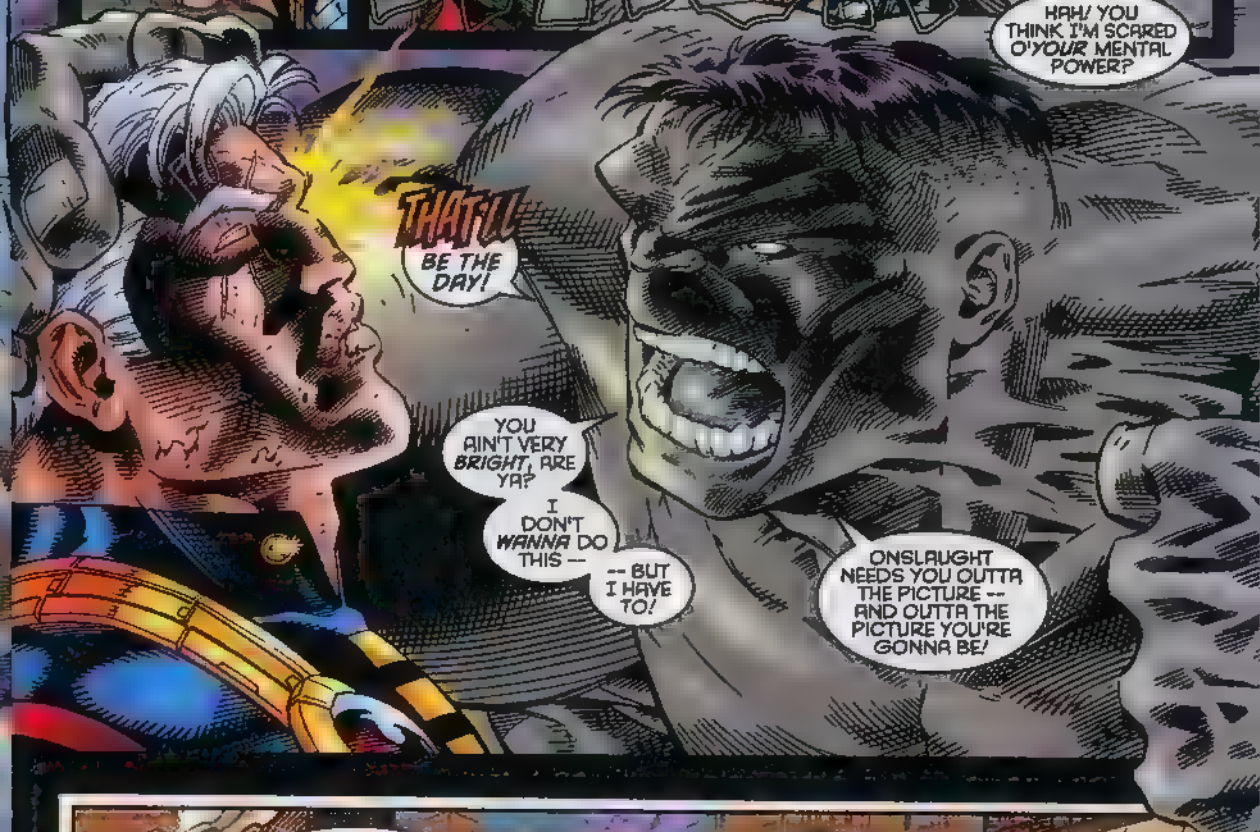
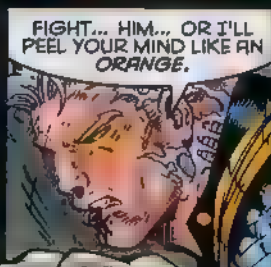
FEW PEOPLE ARE AWARE OF THE DEPTH OF BRUCE BANNER'S PERSONAL TORMENT...

... THAT THERE IS A THIRD PERSONALITY WITHIN HIS FRACTURED PSYCHE.

ARROGANT, BRUTAL, AND QUITE VICIOUS, IT HAS BEEN LOCKED AWAY INSIDE OF THE HULK FOR SOMETIME ☹

-- BUT IS NOW RELEASED AS A RESULT OF CABLE'S PSIONIC PROBE.

NEEDLESS TO SAY, THE SITUATION HAS NOT IMPROVED.



TO THE NORTH, OVER
MANHATTAN.

THE IMPREGNABLE
FORTRESS KNOWN
AS THE S.H.I.E.L.D.
HELICARRIER TURNS
SOUTH.

SHE IS THE PRIDE
OF THE AMERICAN
INTELLIGENCE
COMMUNITY.

FIRST
THE INCIDENT
AT THE
PENTAGON --

-- THEN
THE CYCLOPS
BREAKOUT
HERE --

-- NOW
THIS. THIS WHOLE
MUTANT THING HAS
EXPLODED OUT OF
CONTROL!

COMMANDER
G.W. BRIDGE
HERE.

AS ACTING
LIAISON TO MUTANT
AFFAIRS, THE SITUATION
IN BALTIMORE REQUIRES
OUR IMMEDIATE
PRESENCE.

ALL
STATIONS ARE
TO GO TO WHITE
HOT ALERT -- THE
PRESIDENT HAS JUST
AUTHORIZED US TO
PUT THE GREATER
BALTIMORE AREA
UNDER MARTIAL
LAW.

WE ARE
DEALING WITH
TWO OF THE MOST
DANGEROUS MEN
ON EARTH,
PEOPLE.

Y'KNOW...

... THIS ALL
WOULDN'TA
HAPPENED IF YOU
TOOK OUT CABLE
WHEN YOU HAD
THE CHANCE.*

SOONER
OR LATER,
DUGAN --

-- I WILL
TAKE CABLE
DOWN.

DUGAN!
BRIDGE! WHATEVER
PERSONAL GARBAGE
YOU TWO HAVE --
STOW IT FOR
NOW.

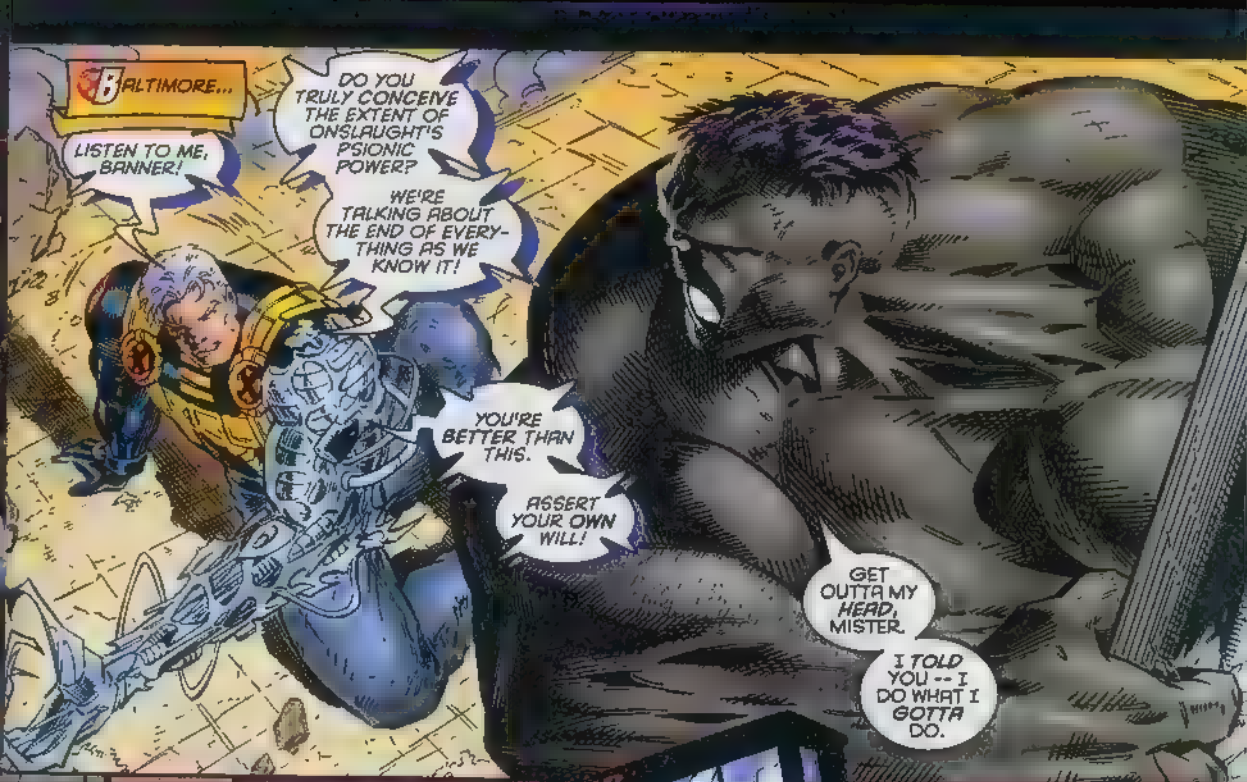
WE'VE
GOT TO GET
TO BALTIMORE
BEFORE THERE ISN'T
A BALTIMORE TO
GET TO!

CONTESSA VALENTINA
DE FONTAINE, ACTING
HEAD OF S.H.I.E.L.D.

WHEN SHE SAYS "JUMP!" --
BOTH DUM-DUM DUGAN AND
G.W. BRIDGE KNOW THERE IS
ONLY ONE ANSWER:

"HOW
HIGH?"

SEE ACTION #55
Plugmeister Mork.



BALTIMORE...

LISTEN TO ME, BANNER!

DO YOU TRULY CONCERN THE EXTENT OF ONSLAUGHT'S PSIONIC POWER?

WE'RE TALKING ABOUT THE END OF EVERYTHING AS WE KNOW IT!

YOU'RE BETTER THAN THIS.

ASSERT YOUR OWN WILL!

GET OUTTA MY HEAD, MISTER.

I TOLD YOU -- I DO WHAT I GOTTA DO.



PLAIN AND --



SIMPLE.



LIKE I SAID.

NOTHIN' PERSONAL.

G-GETTIN' COLD ALL O' A SUDDEN...?

BUT... THIS DON'T FEEL NATURAL.

ON THE CONTRARY, BEHEMOTH --

-- YOU DEAL WITH ONE WHO HAS BEEN GIVEN THE GIFT OF UTILIZING NATURE'S POWER!

SHE IS STORM, BORN ORORO MUNROE -- CO-LEADER OF THE OUTLAW GROUP OF MUTANTS KNOWN AS THE X-MEN.

KNOWING THAT A TELEPATH OF CABLE'S POWER MIGHT BE THE KEY TO DEFEATING ONSLAUGHT...

... SHE WAS DISPATCHED TO SECURE HIS SAFE RETURN TO NEW YORK.

BUT ONSLAUGHT WAS ONE STEP AHEAD.®

ILLUSTRATION BY MARC
X-MEN #135 (March)

STAND DOWN, HULK.

YOU MAY BE THE MOST POWERFUL CREATURE IN THE WORLD...

SHRAAK

... BUT EVEN THE STRONGEST OF TREES WILL BEND TO THE HOWLING GUSTS OF HURRICANE WINDS! BEND --

-- AND THEN BREAK!

STORM FOCUSES
THE SUM OF HER
ELEMENTAL
POWER...

... AND SEVERAL TONS
OF STONE AND BRICK
ARE LIFTED AS THOUGH
MADE OF CARDBOARD.

HOW MANY
HORRORS MUST WE
ENDURE?

XAVIER
APPARENTLY
GONE
MAD.

THE
TRUTH ABOUT
ONSLAUGHT.

AND NOW...

BY THE
GODDESS..!

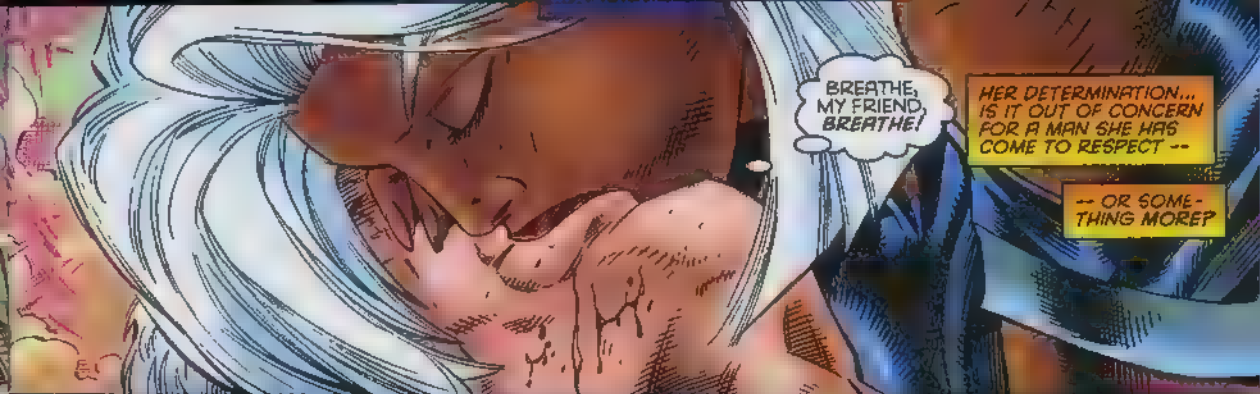
CABLE!

NATHAN,
CAN YOU
HEAR ME?

HIS BODY..!
THE TECHNO-VIRUS
IS SPREADING
BEFORE MY
EYES!

BRIGHT
LADY, DO
NOT LET IT
BE TOO
LATE!

HIS
HEART... HAS
STOPPED!



BREATHE,
MY FRIEND,
BREATHE!

HER DETERMINATION...
IS IT OUT OF CONCERN
FOR A MAN SHE HAS
COME TO RESPECT --

-- OR SOME-
THING MORE?



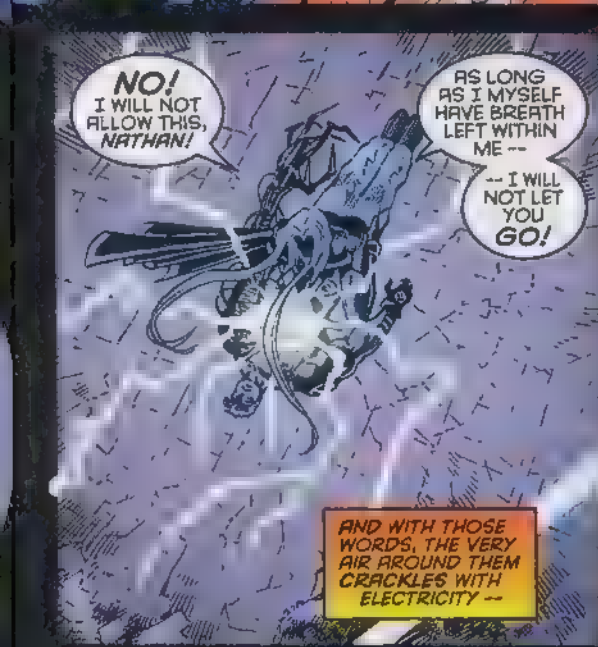
ONE. ONE.
TWO. TWO.

NATHAN,
I KNOW YOU
TO BE A
FIGHTER.

I NEED
YOUR COURAGE
NOW MORE THAN
EVER.



NOTHING.

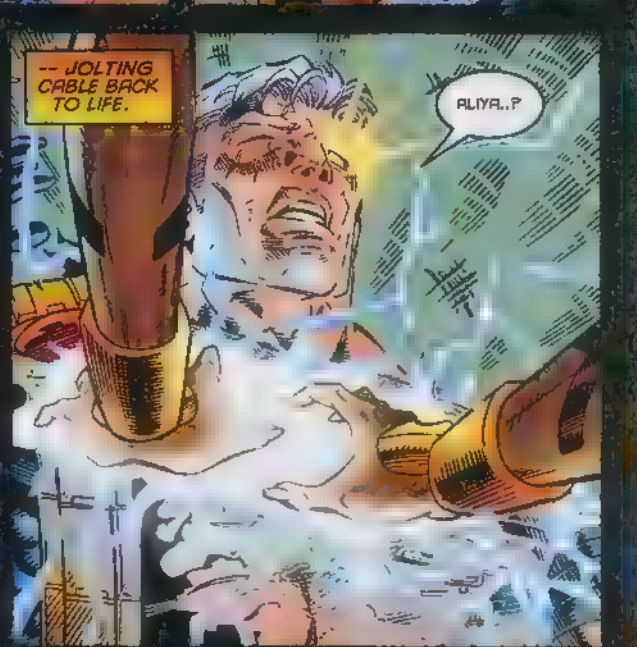


NO!
I WILL NOT
ALLOW THIS,
NATHAN!

AS LONG
AS I MYSELF
HAVE BREATH
LEFT WITHIN
ME --

-- I WILL
NOT LET
YOU
GO!

AND WITH THOSE
WORDS, THE VERY
AIR AROUND THEM
CRACKLES WITH
ELECTRICITY --



-- JOLTING
CABLE BACK
TO LIFE.

ALIA..?



"ALIYA" --
CABLE'S LONG-
DEAD WIFE?

NO,
NATHAN,
IT IS
ORORO.

ORORO...?

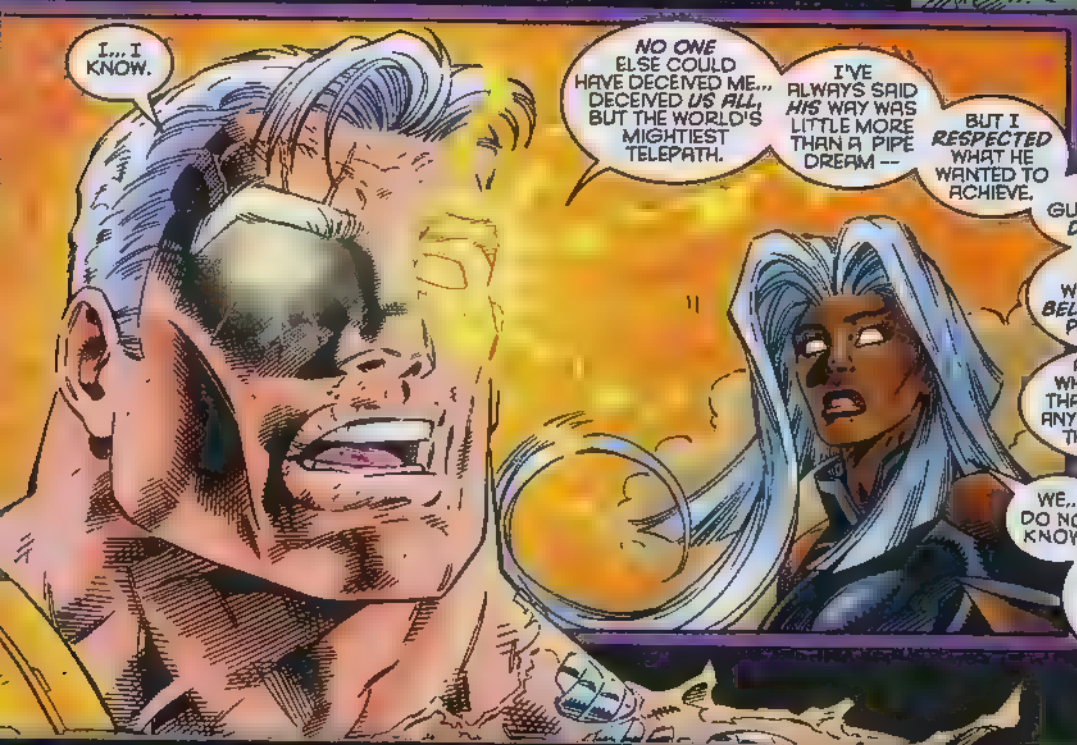


STORM!
HAVE THE REST
OF THE X-MEN
COME WITH
YOU?

THEY
COULD NOT.
WE FACE A CRISIS
NOW BEYOND
ANYTHING WE
COULD
IMAGINE.

NATHAN,
THE MAN WHOM
WE ALL LOVED...
LOOKED UP TO,
IS...

... XAVIER IS
ONSLAUGHT.



I... I
KNOW.

NO ONE
ELSE COULD
HAVE DECEIVED ME...
DECEIVED **US ALL**,
BUT THE WORLD'S
MIGHTIEST
TELEPATH.

I'VE
ALWAYS SAID
HIS WAY WAS
LITTLE MORE
THAN A PIPE
DREAM --

BUT I
RESPECTED
WHAT HE
WANTED TO
ACHIEVE.

AND I
GUESS **DEEP**
DOWN...

... I
ALWAYS
WANTED TO
BELIEVE IT WAS
POSSIBLE.

AND NOW...
WHAT'S LEFT OF
THAT DREAM? OR
ANY WHO FOLLOWED
THE DREAMER?

WE...
DO NOT
KNOW.

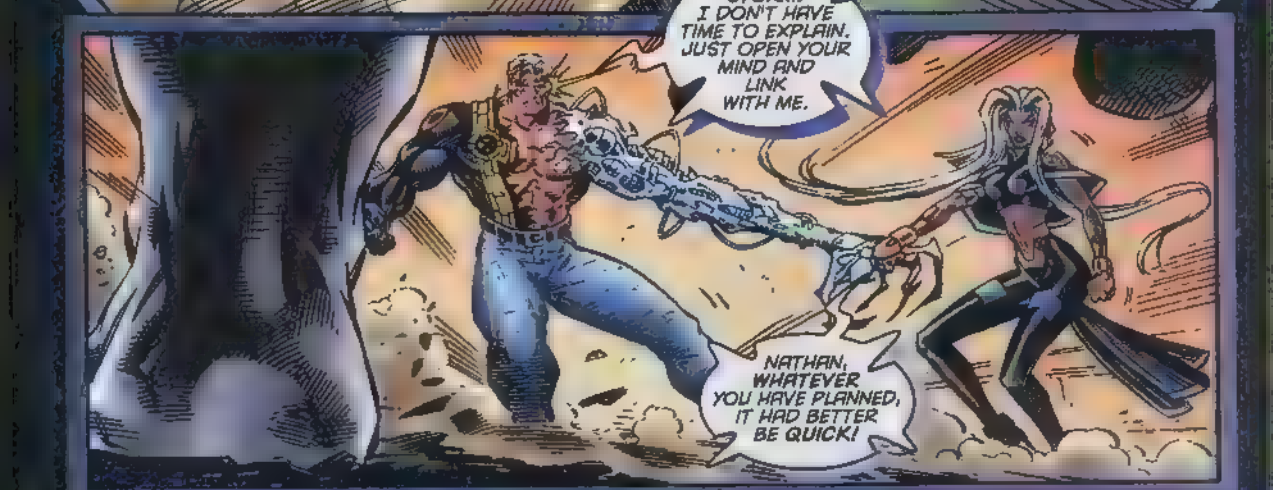
WE
ONLY KNOW
THAT HE
HAS TO BE
STOPPED.



NEVER
HAPPEN.

YOU'LL
NEVER BEAT
ONSLAUGHT --

BECAUSE
YOU HAVEN'T
GOT A PRAYER
AT BEATIN'
ME!



STORM,
I DON'T HAVE
TIME TO EXPLAIN.
JUST OPEN YOUR
MIND AND
LINK
WITH ME.

NATHAN,
WHATEVER
YOU HAVE PLANNED,
IT HAD BETTER
BE QUICK!

WITH CABLE
MENTALLY
GUIDING HER
POWER --

-- STORM UNLEASHES
A BOLT OF LIGHTNING
INTO THE HULK'S HEAD.

EFFECTIVELY SHORTING
OUT THE SYNAPSES OF
HIS BRAIN --

-- AND ALLOWING
FOR CABLE TO HIT
HIM WITH A SINGLE
TELEPATHIC BULLET!

BANNER!

AARRGH!

LAST
CHANCE!

ASSERT
YOURSELF!

NATHAN,
HIS COLOR...
CHANGES AS WE
SPEAK.

BANNER?

STORM...
HIS MIND...
IT'S ALMOST
AS IF IT SHUT
DOWN.

BLAST!
I DON'T THINK
WE BROUGHT
BANNER TO THE
SURFACE --





"-- BUT SOME-
THING FAR
WORSE!"

THEY SEE IT
IN HIS EYES.

WHATEVER SHRED
OF HUMANITY THEY
SOUGHT TO FIND
WITHIN THIS TRAGIC
CREATURE --

THEY HAVE ERRED
CONSIDERABLY.

THERE IS NOTHING NOW TO
STOP THE RAGE OF --

THE SAVAGE
WOLFE

IT IS SAID THAT
WITHIN US ALL
THERE IS A
DARK SIDE.

A BRUTAL,
UNRELENTING,
BEAST.

BRUCE BANNER --
THROUGH GREAT
PERSONAL
SACRIFICE --

-- HAS ALWAYS
FOUND A WAY TO
TEMPER THAT
BEAST.

BUT NOW...
BANNER IS
GONE.

KILL!

"LIKE A CANDLE
IN A GALE
FORCE WIND..."



IT IS A HOPE
THAT IS SOON TO BE
EXTINGUISHED.

IT IS
DONE.

MY
LORD..?

DO
YOU FEEL
IT, "HIGH-
BORN?"

HAVE
YOU YET
REALIZED THAT
WE HAVE REACHED
THE END OF AN
AGE?

HUMANITY
HAS ENTERED
IT'S DARKEST
HOUR...

... AND
MY GREATEST
ENEMY NEARS
DEATH.

WHAT BETTER
TIME TO PREPARE
FOR...

**THE DAWN OF
APOCALYPSE!**

**CONTINUED IN
HULK #444!**

AND IN 30 DAYS - FOR
THE FIRST TIME EVER -

CABLE VS. APOCALYPSE!